



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
6:00 PM | Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members

Present: Bridget Kaub, Albert Gasparian; Janis Mantini;
Krista Sterud

Committee Members

Absent: Antonio Benitez (excused)

Community Members

Present: Ann Anderson, *Urban Forest/HB Tree Society*; Mary Behrens, *HB Equestrian Center*; Shari Engel, *Secret Garden*; Steve Engel, *Secret Garden*; Kay Goddard, *Shipley Nature Center*; Tom Livengood, *Shipley Nature Center*; Kathy May, *Lakeview Café/Sports Complex Concessions*; Juana Mueller, *Secret Garden*

Committee Members

Absent: Mike Bartusick, *Park Bench Café* (excused); Vic Leipzig, *Sea & Sage Audubon Society* (absent)

Council Members

Present: Mayor Barbra Delgleize

Staff Present: Janeen Laudenback, David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez
Nashya Sadono; Denny Bacon, Antonia Graham

CALL TO ORDER | ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Committee Chair Kaub.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Gilson spoke regarding the Butterfly Park at Gibbs Park. She voiced concerns regarding park benches and trash cans being made of concrete. Ms. Gilson would like to see continuity between all of the parks when it comes to benches and trash bins.

Dominguez reminded the audience that this Committee hears matters with regard to Huntington Central Park. Chair Kaub asked if Ms. Gilson could remain and make her comments at the Community Services Commission meeting immediately following this Huntington Central Park (HCP) Committee meeting.

PERMANENT PARKING LOT

Laudenback provided an overview of the last HCP meeting, describing the area available for the permanent parking lot due to the Parks Legal Defense Fund situation. She referenced the plan saying that the concept being presented is for the location only. Dominguez noted that there is a typo that refers to 24 parking spaces, when in reality there are 46 spaces. He also stated that once there is approval of the location, then staff will work with the City's traffic engineer on the ingress, egress and traffic signal. Discussion continued on the safety of the ingress, egress, traffic signal and the footprint of the conceptual plan. Laudenback said that Committee is being asked to approve the concept location. Once approval of the concept is achieved, then other steps will take place and design can be worked out with the City's traffic engineers. Dominguez said that like with any concept, it has to go through a public process and it will be done in phases. First the plan will go to Committee, then to Commission, and then to Council for approval. It will also have to go through the entitlement process within the Design Review Board. All of the fine tuning with mediums, landscape, etc. will be vetted, however, before more time and resources are spent, there has to be an approval of the concept. Muller summarized that Committee is being asked to approve the conceptual plan for the parking lot to be located up top, not down below in Central Park. Committee Chair Kaub further clarified the task before Committee as approving in two steps – first that the Committee wants a permanent paved lot, and secondly, Committee is approving the location as presented due to limitation by the Legal Defense Fund. Discussion continued regarding the Senior Center in Central Park parking and other possible parking locations.

MOTION: Livengood moved to approve the conceptual plan and recommendation it to the Community Services Commission for approval. The motion was seconded by Steve Engel.

Committee Chair Kaub opened the motion for discussion. Goddard said that she objects to the motion because of the placement of the exit. She feels it puts the City at risk to potential accidents. Laudenback said she feels confident leaving the ingress, egress and traffic signal issues to the expertise of the City's traffic engineers, who will analyze and take all pertinent situations into consideration. Goddard said she understands, but still objects due to safety concerns for visitors and buses – putting too much liability on the City.

Commissioner Mantini suggested approving the motion, however, adding wording that would allow for it to come back to Committee for review of the traffic design prior to the plan going to Commission for approval.

Goddard suggested modifying the plan to move the ingress to a dogleg type entrance. Laudenback said that it had been suggested to the traffic engineering, and unfortunately, it would then be considered a road, and because it's parkland, it would institute a Measure C action.

Discussion continued on the language of the motion on the table. Commissioner Mantini reiterated her desire to see the concept brought back to Committee prior to going to Commission for approval. Laudenback said that if Committee wants to see a more detailed plan prior to sending it to Commission, the plan can go to Commission in

July and to Council in August for approval and still meet the timeframe of a fall construction.

Livengood withdrew his original motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Mantini motioned to approve the location of a paved permanent parking lot as presented by staff, with final design to come back to Committee. The motion was seconded by Steve Engel.

Ayes: Anderson, Behrens, Shari Engel, Steve Engel, Kay Goddard, Livengood, May, Mueller
Noes: Nagy
Abstain: None
Absent: Bartusick, Benitez, Leipzig

CENTRAL PARK UPDATE

Laudenback provided an update saying that the tot lot resurfacing in the Capital Improvement Project budget (CIP) is complete.

Bacon from Public Works provided an update on the Jack Green rehab, saying that Public Works is in the process of procuring the contractor for irrigation and planting concepts. Once the irrigation is in, it will wrap up this phase. He also reported that the area from Slater Avenue to the Library has been thinned out and work will continue to trim in the eastern portion of the Jack Green area. Bacon also mentioned that the bridges or half-rounds over the channel will be refurbished as part of the plan.

Goddard asked about the mowing. She would like see monthly mowing, not weekly as indicated in last month's meeting summary notes in order to leave the grass taller and protect the tree roots. Bacon said he will work with the contractor regarding the mowing situation. Several comments were made about the Central Park West and when projects will begin in that area, such as rehabbing the dirt area and turning the water back on. Bacon said that there had been construction in the area that affected the irrigation timers, but he will work with staff to make sure the water is back on.

Mueller asked about the watering at the Secret Garden, saying manual watering is needed because the electricity is off. Bacon said that on that side of the park, there is electrical work taking place on the street that including the replacement of a transformer. He assured the stakeholders that if something is broken on the Public Work's end, he will make certain that it is taken care of it. There was discussion of the lack of communication when construction requires electrical or water to be turned off and when it can be turned on again. Laudenback said that an item on the most productive method of communication for reporting issues can be agendized.

Laudenback continued her report saying that the mid-year projects – the asphalt and concrete at Central Park East and the parking lot renovation project at Central Park East – will be going before the full Community Services Commission. Lastly, the City has a pilot "Adopt-A-Park" program, which will be distributed at the next meeting for the Committee's review. Staff plans to have the pilot program cover portions of Central

Park, Irby Park, and Bartlett. Once comments are received from the Committee, it will go to the Commission for approval.

Discussion moved to communication. Laudenback said that the reports of issues from the stakeholders are extremely important and that the communication will continue to strengthen as Community Services and Public Works meet with the Committee on a monthly basis. Behrens asked who she should contact to report ruts and holes caused by the rain behind the equestrian center. Mueller asked why an email she sent to Public Works regarding a pilot project to take out umbrella sage was re-routed to Laudenback, and the difference between parks and maintenance issues. Discussion continued on the difference. Dominguez and Laudenback explained that issues reported often fall between maintenance issuance and potential master plan issues. Routine park maintenance is handled by Public Works and master plan changes falls under the purview of Community Services and sometimes the distinction isn't clear.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Goddard thanked Community Services and Public Works for the work done. She said that shortly after the last meeting, the AQMD and thereafter Public Works came out and scraped the temporary lot and did a great job without too much interruption to programming at the nature center.

Mueller asked about the ATV filming in the Central Park that was reported at the last meeting. Dominguez said it was permitted through a different department and it was supervised as well, although Community Services was not aware of the scheduled filming. Dominguez spoke with the staff person in charge of the film permits and reiterate the fact that there is sensitivity to not only the habitat, but to park users at Central Park. Mueller asked if any money was received. Dominguez said that there is a permit fee, and that Community Services is usually notified, and will be in the future.

May commented on the quality of landscaping work provided by the City's contract maintenance company, Merchants.

Nagy reported on human noise, saying its polluting nature. She suggested a new paving material that absorbs noise which she hopes can be used on the new parking lot near the nature center. Nagy also said she would like permission to hire the California Conservation Corp to clean up Shipley Nature Center, stating that the HB Tree Society would pay for their services.

Sheri Engel said there is an issue with arundo and is confused as to whom she should report issues to when plants are not indigenous.

Anderson spoke regarding communication, asking that as long-time staff leaves with historical knowledge and new staff is brought on, are there not standard operating manuals in each department. Laudenback said that there are manuals, and with regard to park maintenance issues. Laudenback said it's a huge help and staff depends on when stakeholders inform staff when reporting processes are not working so that better ones can be implemented.

Steve Engel reported that the County is planning to put a 200 person homeless center at the transfer station adjacent to Central Park.

Livengood and Goddard said they have noticed a decrease in coyotes and an increase in rabbits and rodents.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary